NIXON & VANDERHYE PC3 Fax: 703-816-4100

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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-141 (cancelled)

142 (currently amended). A method for preparing a compound of formula III:

wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently selected from H, halogen, or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkexy, or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkexy, or substituted or unsubstituted and or unsubstituted or unsubstituted or unsubstituted and or unsubstituted or unsub

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from H, halogen, hydroxyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>40</sub> alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted aryl; and

R<sub>5</sub> is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl or substituted or unsubstituted arylalkyl, optionally

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interrupted by one or more hetero atoms; wherein the method comprises the steps of

(a) providing a compound of formula II:

wherein

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently selected from H, halogen, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1-10</sub> alkoxy, or substituted or unsubstituted anyl, optionally interrupted by one or more hetereatoms;

 $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are independently selected from H, halogen, hydroxy, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_{1-10}$  alkoxy, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl; and

R<sub>5</sub> is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl or substituted or unsubstituted arylalkyl, optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms; and

(b) dehydration of the compound of formula II to provide the compound of formula III.

143 (previously presented).

A method according to claim 142, wherein at

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least one of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> in formula III is halogen.

144 (previously presented). A method according to claim 142, wherein the dehydration is carried out in the presence of a dehydrating agent.

145 (currently amended). A method according to claim 144, wherein the dehydrating agent is selected from the group consisting of phosphorus pentoxide, silica gel, molecular sieves, alumina, acidic resins and polymers, phosphorus oxychloride, acetic anhydride, N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimlde (DCC), trifluoroacetic acid, sulfuric acid, trifluoroacetic anhydride, and trifluorasulfonic trifluorosulfonic acid anhydride (triflic anhydride).

146 (currently amended). A compound of formula III:

Wherein

 $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently selected from H, halogen, or substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy, or substituted or

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unsubstituted and, optionally interrupted by one or more hetero atoms;

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from H, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>40</sub> alkexy, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl; and

R<sub>5</sub> is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl or substituted or unsubstituted arylalkyl, optionally interrupted by one or more hetero atoms.

one of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is halogen.

148 (currently amended). A compound according to claim 146, selected from the group consisting of:

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KUMAR Appl. No. 10/525,231 August 4, 2008 ; and 149-157 (canceled).

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158 (currently amended). A compound of formula (VI):

$$R_1$$
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_4$ 
 $R_5$ 

wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently selected from H, halogen, or substituted or unsubstituted G<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy, or substituted or unsubstituted or unsubstituted by one or maje hetero atoms;

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are independently selected from H, halogen, hydroxyl, or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkoxy, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl.;

R<sub>5</sub> is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, hydroxy, ., OC(O)alkyl and OC(O)alkylC(O)OH substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted arylalkyl; and

Z is selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, OC(O)alkyl and OC(O)alkylC(O)OH.

159-235 (canceled).

236 (new). A method according to claim 142 wherein halogen is bromine.

- 237 (new). A method according to claim 142 wherein aryl is phenyl.
- 238 (new). A method according to claim 142 wherein arylalkyl is benzyl.
- 239 (new). A method according to claim 142 wherein  $R_s$  is alkyl substituted with  $-OC(O)CF_s$  or  $-OSO_s$ -p-toluene.
  - 240 (new). A method according to claim 146 wherein halogen is bromine.
  - 241 (new). A method according to claim 146 wherein aryl is phenyl.
  - 242 (new). A method according to claim 146 wherein arylalkyl is benzyl.
- 243 (new). A method according to claim 146 wherein R<sub>s</sub> is alkyl substituted with -OC(O)CF<sub>s</sub> or -OSO<sub>s</sub>-p-toluene.
  - 244 (new). A method according to claim 158 wherein halogen is bromine.
  - 245 (new). A method according to claim 158 wherein aryl is phenyl.
  - 246 (new). A method according to claim 158 wherein arylalkyl is benzyl.

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247 (new). A method according to claim 158 wherein Z is -OC(O)CH<sub>3</sub>.

248 (new). A method according to claim 158 wherein Z is -OC(O)CH2C(O)OH.

249 (new). A compound selected from the group consisting of:

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